

It is all too apparent that we, as an American people, have become so enamored with what I shall call "instant gratification" that we seek to eliminate anything which requires some effort on our part to achieve. Such is the case before us in this battle to do away with morse code requirements in the amateur radio service.

Not so long ago, the licensing requirements for entrance into amateur radio were drastically changed for the benefit of the majority who were not interested in putting forth the effort to earn their ticket in the time-honored traditional methods.

Now, we hear from those who wish to eliminate CW, as they deem it as an "impediment" in their upward progression to the esteemed Extra class ticket. I say ENOUGH!

Those of use who championed the code (I'm still a general class, but I achieved 13 WPM) can no longer remain silent and watch our earned privileges, one by one, being eroded, eliminated, and simply given away to those who have decided that they don't want to put forth the effort, demanding an end to one of the finest traditions in amateur radio. No. Simply put, NO! Do not reward them with something for nothing. If they want it badly enough, they will study and work to achieve it.

I hold the highest esteem for the folks who have earned their privileges at the top end of the amateur radio service. Despite those few who simply memorized the question pool, even they did one thing that the others are not willing to do. They took the time to read and/or study the materials, and they learned CW as well.

CW should NOT be eliminated. Its as much a part of radio history as the vacuum tube. CW isn't going away. It's used daily on thousands of public safety radio systems all across the country for station identification purposes, and expanding in that capacity.

Let's leave it alone and hold onto some of the very last vestiges of tradition in our amateur radio service. Don't back down. Don't give in.